7th Plan of the Department of Telecommunication are to commission 11 lakh DELs, 9000 LDPTs., 5144 RKMs of optical fibre system, 862 RKMs of coaxial cables systems, 10807 RKMs of Microwave.

(b) It is proposed to resort to market borrowings to raise additional funds for telecom. services

Electrolytic Manganese Metal Project

1775. SHRI GAYA CHAND BHUYAN:

SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the letter of intent bearing No. L 1-189(82) dated 16th March, 1982 M/s Aryan Mining and Trading Corporation Ltd. has been granted a licence for setting up an Electrolytic Manganese Metal project in Tehsil Bonai of Surdebgarh District in collaboration with IPICOL;

(b) whether the clearance for technical collaboration for the project was sought from Government as per the stipulation in the letter of intent;

(c) wheher M/s Aryan Mining and Trading Corporation Ltd. has also been informed by the Central Government on 7th November, 1985 that their other proposal for foreign collaboration with M/s CHEMTEX Fibre Inc. U.S.A. for the manufacture of polyester Staple Fibre had been approved instead of the earlier proposal for establishment Electrolytic Manganese Metal Unit; and

(d) whether any clarification has been sought by the applicant in this regard and if so, the details thereof and Government's reply thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) M|s. Aryan Mining & Trading Corporation Pvt. Ltd. has been granted a letter of intent No. 189 (82) dated 16th March 1982 for setting up an Electrolytic Manganese Metal project in Tehsil Bonai, of Sundergarh District in Orissa.

(b) to (d) M/s. Aryan Mining and Trading Corporation (P) Ltd. submitted a proposal for foreign collaboration with M/s Sumitomo Metal Industries Japan for the manufacture of Electrolytic Manganese Metal. The proposal was approved by the Government and foreign collaboration approval letter was issued to the party on 7-11-1985. Details of the proposal particularly financial terms and conditions are not revealed in the public interest as a matter of policy.

Price of newsprint

1776. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government propose to take to ensure that indigenous newsprint competes with imported newsprint in price and technology; if so, what steps are contemplated in that direction;

(b) whether Government propose to stabilize the price of newsprint in pursuance of their assurance given in January, 1985 ; and

(c) what has been the price of indigenous newsprint during the last 3 years and how does this price compare with the price of imported newsprint?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) The quality of newsprint produced by the existing newsprint units is considered satisfactory. Technological studies for upgradation in quality have been made by the units themselves. The Major characteristics for newsprint are the absorption of ink, no show-through capability, runnability of